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APPLICATION OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Draft resolution submitted by Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen

The General Conference,

(a) Recognizing the importance of nuclear disarmament and of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons - both globally and regionally - for enhancing international peace and security,

(b) Reaffirming the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,

(c) Mindful of the usefulness of the Agency's safeguards system as a reliable means of verifying the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and the immediate need to place all nuclear facilities in the Middle East region under full-scope Agency safeguards,

(d) Concerned by the consequences, endangering peace and security, of the presence in the Middle East region of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities and nuclear activities not wholly devoted to peaceful purposes,

(e) Supporting the initiative regarding the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in the Middle East,

(f) Recognizing that full realization of these objectives would be promoted by the participation of all States of the region,

(g) Commending the Agency's efforts relating to the application of safeguards in the Middle East, and the positive response of some States in concluding full-scope safeguards agreements with the Agency, and

(h) Recalling its resolution GC(41)/RES/25,

1. Takes note of the Director General's report in document GOV/1998/39-GC(42)/2;

2. Affirms the urgent need for all States in the Middle East to accept the application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all their nuclear activities as an important measure for building confidence among all States in the region and as a step in enhancing peace and security in the context of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ);

3. Calls upon Israel, the only State in the region of the Middle East that is not party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to accede to the Treaty without any further delay, and to adhere to the international non-proliferation regime as a means of complementing participation in a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and of strengthening peace and security in the region, and further calls upon all parties directly concerned to take the practical and appropriate steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a mutually and effectively verifiable NWFZ in the region;

4. Requests the Director General to continue consultations with the States of the Middle East in order to facilitate the early application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all nuclear activities in the region as relevant to the preparation of model agreements, as a necessary step towards the establishment of a NWFZ in the region, as referred to in resolution GC(XXXVII)/RES/627;

5. Calls upon all States in the region to extend their fullest co-operation to the Director General in the fulfillment of the tasks entrusted to him in the preceding paragraph;

6. Further calls upon all States in the region to take measures, including confidence-building and verification measures, aimed at establishing a NWFZ in the Middle East;

7. Calls upon all other States, especially those with a special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to render all assistance to the Director General by facilitating the implementation of this resolution; and

8. Requests the Director General to submit to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference at its forty-third regular session a report on the implementation of this resolution and to include in the provisional agenda for that session an item entitled "Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East".